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R Newsletter

RURAL DEVELOPMENT



August 1971

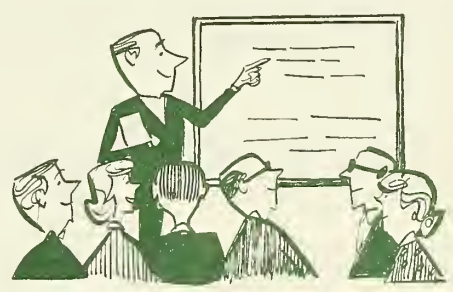
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, EDUCATORS PLAN OCTOBER WORKSHOP ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT

To encourage the greater use of educational facilities in the rural development process, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the American Association of Junior Colleges and the American Vocational Association are planning a national workshop for October 18-20 in Lincoln, Nebraska.

"We expect to pinpoint our priorities and chart an action course," Dr. Henry Ahlgren, Deputy Under Secretary of Agriculture, said. "The role of education and training in the development of our country-side cannot be overstated. Education and training have key roles in attracting and retaining industry, in enhancing the lives of rural residents and in building the resources of a community."

In addition to hearing keynote speeches by top USDA and education officials, some 300 rural development leaders, educators and policy makers will discuss the effect of population trends, the role of communications in rural development, housing and related public services, education and manpower training, recreation, planning and cultural opportunities."



RURAL HOUSING LOANS HIT NEW HIGH IN FISCAL 1971

The Farmers Home Administration reports that nearly half a million rural people were able to move into new or improved homes financed through its agency's programs in the year that ended June 30, 1971.

A record loan total of \$1.399 billion for the year was reported.

FHA loans are made to families with low or moderate incomes who will occupy homes in rural areas. The money is used to buy, build, improve or relocate homes. Loans for construction of rental units for senior citizens and other qualified families and for farm labor housing benefited another 2,600 families.

UNIQUE OKLAHOMA PROJECT NEARS
COMPLETION OF PHASE ONE

What has come to be known as the SODA project is nearing the completion of its first phase, the setting of priorities for planning and building the future of 10 southern Oklahoma counties.

In April 1970, eight Federal departments and the Office of Economic Opportunity signed a unique agreement to assist the Southern Oklahoma Development Association (SODA) develop a plan for the future growth of the State-designated district.

District officials, drawing upon suggestions from county planning advisory committees, have completed a multi-year development program including an eighteen month work schedule. This document was prepared with technical assistance from thirteen Federal and over twenty state agencies.

The program design stage of the demonstration effort is seeking answers to such questions as:

-- What mechanisms and organizational formats, including considerations of representation, can be most effective for coordinating functional planning and development?

-- What is the most realistic and achievable short-range development strategy?

-- What conditions are necessary to assure a continuity of coordinated local/regional/state/federal planning and implementation?

The first phase evaluation is to be completed by November 1, 1971.

Contact: Mr. Orlie J. Boehler, executive director, Southern Oklahoma Development Association, P. O. Box 3125, Ardmore Airpark, Oklahoma 73401.

ILLINOIS ACTIVE IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

Gov. Ogilvie of Illinois has established a cabinet committee on rural development, composed of the directors of the departments of aeronautics, agriculture, business and economic development, local government affairs, public health, public works and buildings, the environmental protection agency, the Illinois housing development authority, and the institute for environmental quality.

Too, he has created five regions that state agencies are to use for planning, technical assistance, data gathering, and administrative purposes. Next, the State's task force on sub-state districting will seek to develop a second tier of sub-regions or districts.

Meanwhile, members of the State USDA rural development committee have begun visiting county and multi-county rural development advisory councils to gather suggestions and discuss the work of the councils. These meetings are expected to be completed in a year.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE, LABOR PROGRAM
CUT INTO SAWMILL SKILL SHORTAGE

When a survey showed that a high percentage of sawmills in the region were going out of business solely because they couldn't find trained employees, the Haywood Technical Institute at Clyde, North Carolina, set up a Manpower Development and Training Act program to train sawyers, saw filers, and lumber grader-dry kiln operators in 1969.

Since then, two classes totaling 57 men have been graduated and 41 are still in the trade. The beginning salaries of these formerly unemployed men 18 to 45 years old range from \$125 to \$200 a week. Sawmills send recruiters to campus before graduation.

The sawmill training complex is valued at \$600,000 but only \$40,000 of this came from State government because of extensive donations of equipment and materials from the private sector.

The program is described in the June 1971, issue of Manpower Magazine, published by the Manpower Administration, U.S. Department of Labor. The Labor Department administers the training programs, providing the funds for training costs and trainee living allowances.

WEST VIRGINIA HEALTH COUNCIL
STRIVES TO MEET RURAL NEEDS

Fifteen coordinated health services are now in operation in nine counties of southern West Virginia and have provided services for more than 400,000 persons since 1968:

*Almost 2,000 of 37,000 elementary school children screened for heart defects were found to have abnormal-sounding hearts and are being examined further.

*More than 1,200 reactors were discovered among the 31,325 persons screened for tuberculosis.

*An adult female health screening for 3,800 women uncovered 24 cases of cervical cancer.

*More than 50,000 children received immunizations.

*In one 12-month period, home health nursing visits reached 17,878.

*Some 5,180 cases were handled through a 24-hour health information and referral project during an 18-month period. A person needing help could dial a toll-free telephone number and be channeled to the quickest source of assistance.

The Southern West Virginia Regional Health Council, which coordinates these and other programs, is discussed in the May-June 1971 issue of "Appalachia," a journal published by the Appalachian Regional Commission.



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AVAILABLE PUBLICATIONS

Housing Programs for Smaller Communities, U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and U. S. Department of Agriculture, HUD-51-MD. Single copies free. Write HUD Publications Service Center, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington, D. C. 20410.

Selecting and Financing a Home, Home and Garden Bulletin No. 182, U. S. Department of Agriculture. 15 cents. Write Supt. of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402.

Rural Manpower Dilemmas, a reprint from the 1971 Manpower Report of the President. Single copies free. Write Manpower Information Office, Inquiry Section, U. S. Department of Labor, 14th and Constitution, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20210.

The following are available free on request from the Division of Information, Office of Management Services, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. 20250.



Impact of City-County Consolidation of the Rural-Urban Fringe: Nashville-Davidson County, Tenn., AER-206.

Regional Variation in Economic Growth and Development, with emphasis on rural areas, AER 205.

Rural Poor Who Could Benefit from Job Retraining in the East North Central States, AER 208.